Government of
Saskatchewan

Annual Report
1986 - 87

Saskatchewan
Farm Ownership
Board

88-00036/

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Letters of Transmittal

June 15, 1987

The Honourable F. W. Johnson
Lieutenant Governor
Province of Saskatchewan
Regina, Saskatchewan

May It Please Your Honour:

I have the pleasure to submit to your Honour the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Board for the year ending March 31, 1987.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honourable Bob Andrew
Minister of Justice and
Attorney General

June 15, 1987

The Honourable Bob Andrew
Minister of Justice
and Attorney General
Province of Saskatchewan
Regina, Saskatchewan

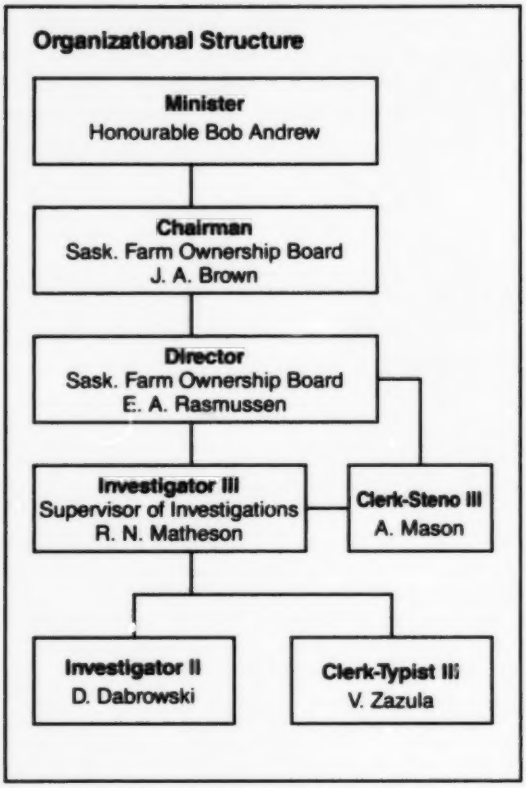
Dear Mr. Andrew:

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Board for the year ending March 31, 1987.

Respectfully submitted,

Professor J. A. Brown
Chair

I. Organization



A. Board

Re-appointed to the Board for a one-year term were Professor Jake Brown, Chair, Darwin Lackey, Vice-Chair, Arden Body, Bill Warner, Elmer Lyke, Irene Smyth and Gerald Olson.

B. Administration

In the 1986 - 87 fiscal year, the investigative staff were required to process, investigate and document 545 transfers of land to non-resident individuals and 552 transfers to corporate interests. Staff were also required to investigate and process 172 individual and 158 corporate applications for exemption. In addition, the investigators were required to respond to personal or written enquiries and to monitor the activities of 629 open files carried over from previous years.

C. Objectives

The Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Act, 1974, as amended, is one of the programs instituted to help improve and stabilize the economic and social environment in the province. Its primary objective is to facilitate ownership and control of Saskatchewan farmland by residents or Saskatchewan corporations primarily engaged in the business of farming.

The responsibility of the Board in administering the Act includes making or advising on policy decisions, hearing applications for exemption, recommending amendments to the Act and regulations, issuing Orders for Divestment, and recommending prosecutions for violations of the Act's provisions.

II. Activities

A. Monitoring and Investigation

The Board monitored all changes of interest in rural land which were processed through the eight land title offices in the province. 11,187 transfers involving 2,877,312 acres were monitored. This resulted in 729 non-resident investigations and 281 corporate investigations by Board staff.

In this fiscal year, non-residents acquired title to 137,654 acres. The interests acquired resulted primarily from the special exemption provisions afforded non-resident relatives of present or past resident farmers. Twenty-four non-eligible individuals purchased 116 acres under the 10-acre provision in this fiscal year.

Table I
Comparative Statistics —
Non-Resident Transfers

	Transfers	Acres	# of Files
1984 - 85	449	88,441	798*
1985 - 86	456	105,271	644*
1986 - 87	545	137,654	729*

*** One transfer may result in several individuals acquiring an interest.**

In this fiscal year, corporations acquired an interest in 213,816 acres. A majority of the land acquired was by corporations primarily involved in agricultural production. Fifty-one non-agricultural corporations purchased 240 acres under the 10-acre provision in this fiscal year.

Table II
Comparative Statistics — Corporate Transfers

	Transfers	Acres	# of Files
1984 - 85	578	189,374	523*
1985 - 86	511	176,208	323*
1986 - 87	552	213,816	281*

*** Several transfers may involve one corporation**

B. Applications for Exemption

The Board has the authority to consider applications for exemption which, if granted, allow non-eligible individuals and corporations to have or acquire agricultural land in excess of 10 acres.

In this fiscal year, the Board considered 172 requests received from non-resident individuals involving 79,817 acres. One hundred and sixty-two applications totalling 78,537 acres were granted. Ten requests totalling 1,280 acres were denied.

Table III
Comparative Statistics —
Non-Resident Applications for Exemption

	# Granted	Acres	# Denied	Acres
1984-85	153	46,665	14	9,733
1985-86	202	120,029	14	3,120
1986-87	162	78,537	10	1,280

In this fiscal year, the Board considered 158 requests for exemption received from non-agricultural corporations involving 178,658 acres. One hundred and fifty-three applications totalling 178,203 acres were granted. Five requests totalling 455 acres were denied.

Table IV
Comparative Statistics —
Non-Agricultural Corporations Applications for Exemption

	# Granted	Acres	# Denied	Acres
1984-85	124	83,096	6	28,515
1985-86	171	152,385	3	16,455
1986-87	153	178,203	5	455

C. Applications for Extension

The Board has the authority to extend the two-year time period allowed creditors acquiring land by realization, quit claim, settlement or otherwise of a security.

In this fiscal year, the Board considered 27 requests received from financial institutions involving 18,640 acres. All requests were granted.

D. Board Meetings

At 12 meetings held during this fiscal year, the Board considered 330 applications for exemption and 27 requests for extension to the two year period allowed creditors to comply with the Act.

The Board classified 10 individuals as "residents" for purposes of the Act and 11 corporations were classified as "agricultural corporations".

During this fiscal year, the Board held that 21 non-resident individuals and corporations had acquired an interest in land in violation of the Act's provisions. One case remains outstanding as a result of service of a Divestment Order.

At year end, one case held over from a previous year remained outstanding as a result of service of a Divestment Order.